

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04101 091151Z

61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 H-03 DRC-01 /028 W

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R 091001Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7288

USINT DAMASCUS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 4101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY, US

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING BIDS FOR SYRIAN TOWNS

REFERENCE: STATE 46283

1. EMBASSY HAS NO INDEPENDANT INFORMATION ON SUBJECT DISCUSSED REFTTEL, AND EMBOFF TALKED, ACCORDINGLY, WITH KARIM ASOUAD IN EFFORT OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION RE SYRIANNINTENTIONS BUILD THREE MODEL CITIES. ASSOUD, UNFORTUNATELY, UNABLE EXPAND MATERIALLY UPON INFORMATION ALREADY TRANSMITTED TO AMERICAN CONTACT FROM WHOM WE PRESUME ENQUIRY TO CONGRESSMAN HANNA'S OFFICE HAS COME.

2. ACCORDING ASSOUD, HIS OFFICE APPROACHED BY DELEGATE OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT (HE DECLINED TO REVEAL NAME OF EMISSARY OR BY WHOM HE HAD BEEN DESPATCHED, BUT HE INDICATED HE WAS SURE OF THE MAN'S AUTHORITY) WHO HAD ASKED ASSOUD TO LOCATE FOREIGN PARTNER AND UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT, ON TURN-KEY BASIS, OF THREE NEW TOWNS IN SYRIA. ADEQUATE FINANCING TO COVER FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS OF THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE PART OF ANY PACKAGE PROPOSAL. THE FIRST TOWN WILL EVENTUALLY CONTAIN 200,000 PEOPLE AND IS TO BE SITED SOME 20 KMS. FROM DAMASCUS. ASSOUD SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE LOCATIONS OF THE OTHER TWO PROPOSED TOWNS, BUT THAT HE EXPECTED THEY WERE TO BE TOURIST-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

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3. ASSOUD SAID HIS FIRM INTERESTED SECURING

AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT PROJECT AND THAT
IT WANTED TO WORK AS AN ACTIVE PARTNER OF THE AMERICAN
FIRM, NOT AS A MIDDLEMAN FOR PURPOSES OF SECURING
THE CONTRACT ONLY. THE LEBANESE FIRM IS A BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT FIRM, HOWEVER, NOT A CONSTRUCTION OR
ENGINEERING FIRM.

4. WTDR ON ETS. KARIM LOUIS ASSOUD UNDER PREPARATION
AND WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN READY.
GODLEY

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NNN

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